

WASHINGTON POST

Approved For Release 2001/03/04 : CIA-RDP80-01601R

The Washington Merry-Go-Round**Washington Whirl**

MUSICAL CHAIRS — Our White House sources say the real purpose of President Nixon's reorganization is to tighten his control over the government. It has appeared to be a game of musical chairs as he has shifted his subordinates around. But he has carefully chosen loyal aides, with proven managerial ability, to take over agencies that haven't been as responsive to his will as he would like. He not only has tightened but centralized the lines of authority. Those squeezed out have been, largely, subordinates

who couldn't be depended upon to do and say precisely what the President wished. Richard Helms was dropped as CIA chief, for example, because he had refused to slant his secret testimony on Capitol Hill. At Senate Foreign Relations hearings, he would not confirm the Nixon administration's estimates of Soviet first-strike capability.